

Weekly Police Beat for the week ending September 1, 2017

Boy Bitten in Face, Seriously Injured by Unleashed Dog

Village Police to Strictly Enforce the Leash Law

On July 18 at about 6:30 p.m., a 10 year-old boy, his sister and his parents were walking in the Village when they encountered a woman walking near her large, unleashed dog. The boy asked the woman if he could approach and pet her dog, and she told him that he could. As the boy began to pet the dog, the animal turned and bit the boy in the face seriously injuring the boy's nose and upper lip. The boy was taken to a nearby hospital by ambulance where a plastic surgeon worked to repair the wounds. The boy continues to heal and will likely have significant facial scarring.

As a result of this event, the dog was seized and euthanized by the County's Animal Services Division, and the dog owner was charged with two offenses: violating the leash law, and failing to prevent the dog from making unwanted contact with another person.

The Village has adopted Montgomery County's animal control law which, among other things, requires dogs to be leashed whenever the animal is outside the owner's premises unless the dog is in an authorized dog exercise area. Further, the law defines 'unwanted contact' as an animal's unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domesticated animal that occurs outside of an owner's property and causes alarm in a reasonable person. Examples of unwanted contact includes biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping.

In the past, Village police officers have patiently issued warnings to dog owners who ignore the leash law. This incident has heightened our vigilance—and our resolve—in enforcing this law for the protection of residents and visitors to our community. Going forward, those who fail to keep their dog under control at all times with a leash as required by law should expect to be cited. The fine for failing to prevent unwanted contact is \$500 for a first offense, and \$750 for a second or subsequent offense. The fine for failing to keep a dog on a leash is \$100 for a first offense and \$150 for a second or subsequent offense.